

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR FOX VALLEY WISCONSIN COUNTIES

May 2002



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

## Spring Brings Improvement to the Area's Unemployment Rates

This year like most years, the employment picture began to brighten during April. The unadjusted unemployment rate was down in all of the areas in the region. Overall the unemployment rate was down 0.9 of a percentage point from March. Following seasonal patterns, the improvement should continue to improve during the next several months as seasonal jobs relating to agriculture, tourism, and construction continue to increase.

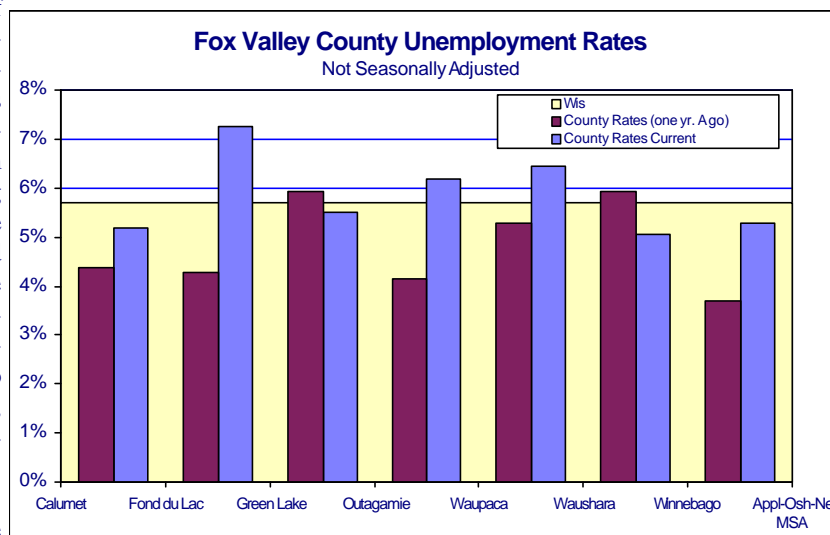
Although the monthly rate was down in all of the areas in the region, there was an increase in local unemployment rates in all of areas in the region when compared to last April. Unemployment in the region as a whole is up 1.2 of a percentage point before seasonal adjustment from last year. This compares with a 0.9 of a percentage point increase for the State of Wisconsin during the same time period.

The decline over the month was the result of two different events in the area's economy. The first was a decline in the number of workers in the labor force. In April, the number of workers in the Fox Valley Area declined 1,300. This is somewhat unusual, as April is a time of year that workers begin to enter the labor force. Most of the decline occurred in the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA, where the number in the labor force was down 1,110.

The other event, was an increase in the number of workers

estimated to be employed. Employment over the month was up 1,800 from March. Employment growth is very typical during April, and usually continues through June or July.

Although the number of workers in the labor force declined between March and April, there were 8,800 more workers in the labor force this April compared to one year ago. Over one half of these were in the Fox Cities area. The total number of workers in the region was 338,600, with 320,200 being employed. It is estimated that approximately 18,500 were



unemployed.

Employment in nonfarm wage and salary (NFWS) employment rose 2,100 in April. Over half of these jobs were in the construction industry which rose 1,100 to 16,800. Retail trade and services were the next largest growth industries in April. Manufacturing employment still continued to decline with a drop of 300 to 74,600 jobs in April. On a brighter note here, manufacturing did show an increase in employment on a statewide basis, increasing 1,300 over the month.

Employment growth for the month gives some indication that

the coming months will show improvement in the area's economy, but there is still a long way to go before NFWS employment reaches levels comparable to the last several years. In April, NFWS employment was down 1,600 from last year, with manufacturing down 4,000 from April 2001.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)				
	Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA	Wisconsin	United States	
			(000s)	
<b>March-2002</b>				
Civilian Labor Force	233,000	3,075,700	142,000	
Employment	221,400	2,900,400	133,900	
Unemployment	11,600	175,200	8,100	
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.7%	5.7%	
<b>February-2002 Change</b>				
Civilian Labor Force	(600)	(4,700)	(200)	
Employment	(600)	(1,600)	(400)	
Unemployment	-	(3,200)	200	
Unemployment rate	0.0%	-0.1%	0.2%	
<b>March-2001 Change</b>				
Civilian Labor Force	4,600	89,100	100	
Employment	700	46,200	(1,900)	
Unemployment	3,900	42,700	2,100	
Unemployment rate	1.6%	1.3%	1.4%	

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

## Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted rate for the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA declined 0.1 of a percentage point from last month to 4.9 percent. This was an increase of 1.2 of a percentage point from last April when the MSA's rate was at 3.7 percent.

The nation's unemployment rate rose 0.3 of a percentage point

to 6.0 percent, while the rate for the State of Wisconsin was down 0.3 of a percentage point to 5.4 percent. To the north, the rate for the Green Bay MSA was 4.8 percent, unchanged from March.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

## Labor Force and Employment Estimates for the Wisconsin Fox Valley Counties

April-2002	App/Osh/Neenah	Fond du Lac	Green Lake	Waupaca	Waushara	Region	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	230,700	57,400	11,200	27,500	11,800	338,600	3,047,100
Employed	218,500	54,400	10,400	25,800	11,100	320,200	2,873,600
Unemployed	12,200	3,000	800	1,700	800	18,500	173,500
Unemployment rate(%)	5.3%	5.2%	7.2%	6.2%	6.4%	5.5%	5.7%
Seasonally Adj. rate(%)	4.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.4%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	202,500	49,000	7,800	21,500	6,000	280,700	2,811,600
Construction & Mining	12,000	3,300	600	900	300	16,800	119,700
Manufacturing	55,100	11,600	1,700	6,100	700	74,600	563,500
Transportation & Public Utilities	9,400	2,300	300	800	300	12,800	131,300
Wholesale Trade	9,100	1,900	100	900	200	12,000	136,800
Retail Trade	34,600	9,400	1,400	3,900	1,300	49,300	497,400
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	9,600	1,800	300	600	200	12,400	151,800
Services	48,300	12,700	2,100	4,300	1,400	67,500	781,900
Government	24,300	5,900	1,300	4,000	1,500	35,400	429,200
<b>Change from previous month</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	-1,100	-100	-200	300	-200	-1,300	-4,200
Employed	400	600	100	600	100	1,800	21,700
Unemployed	-1,500	-700	-300	-300	-200	-3,000	-25,900
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.6%	-1.3%	-2.3%	-1.0%	-1.6%	-0.9%	-0.8%
Seasonally Adj. rate(%)	-0.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.3%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	800	500	300	500	100	2,100	35,900
Construction & Mining	640	330	70	100	40	1,140	10,800
Manufacturing	-140	-180	10	30	0	-280	1,300
Transportation & Public Utilities	-180	50	10	20	10	-100	1,200
Wholesale Trade	20	40	20	-10	10	70	1,000
Retail Trade	340	130	50	160	50	680	7,300
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	-10	10	10	0	10	0	500
Services	230	110	70	170	-80	580	11,400
Government	-100	0	60	30	50	-10	2,500
<b>Change from year ago</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	4,600	2,400	500	900	400	8,800	78,300
Employed	1,400	1,800	300	600	400	4,400	47,100
Unemployed	3,200	600	200	300	100	4,400	31,300
Unemployment rate(%)	1.3%	0.9%	1.3%	0.9%	0.5%	1.2%	0.9%
Seasonally Adj. rate(%)	1.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	-2,800	1,100	-100	160	150	-1,600	-4,500
Construction & Mining	-50	360	0	50	30	360	100
Manufacturing	-3,600	-310	-150	-30	-40	-4,000	-25,900
Transportation & Public Utilities	-100	110	-10	10	10	10	-3,600
Wholesale Trade	160	60	0	-40	30	180	200
Retail Trade	-250	140	-20	20	20	-100	3,800
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	350	50	30	10	-10	440	3,300
Services	380	550	50	30	80	1,010	13,400
Government	300	140	0	120	20	560	4,200

\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted unless noted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)

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